



**Bart Russell
Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the
Energy & Technology Committee
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The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) *supports* **HB-5271, An Act Concerning the Siting Council.**

This bill strikes an appropriate balance by providing municipal officials with greater input in the siting of telecommunications towers.

As the demand for wireless technologies grow, small towns and cities are increasingly faced with efforts to place towers in areas that don't make sense for the town or its residents because of environmental, ecological or aesthetic concerns. Many towns have spent countless hours crafting zoning and land use regulations to protect neighborhoods, open space, natural resources, historic districts or other priorities, which have sometimes conflicted with plans to site telecommunications towers.

By requiring applicants to make a good faith effort to meet with town leaders to fully discuss the application, including ways of mitigating the impact to the town, this bill ensures that towns will have a stronger voice in working with the Siting Council and telecommunications companies to come to mutually agreeable solutions.

COST urges support for HB-5271